

SD State Historical Society involved with two TV programs

Lights, camera, action, roll. The South Dakota State Historical Society has been involved in filming two major television programs this fall — “Fireball Run” and C-SPAN. Both very different programs, but both highlight the history of South Dakota.

“Fireball Run” is a subscription-based program through Amazon Prime. Although filming took place at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center three times since last spring, the program will not be broadcast until the fall 2018. “Fireball Run” is an adventure, reality television program. The Cultural Heritage Center was the location for two “missions” in which the contestants got up close and personal with artifacts on display and learned about South Dakota history. The actual day the “fireballers” visited the Center was fun. Society President Brad Tennant, local historian Bill Markley, Museum Director Jay Smith and I were the “mission specialists” and interacted with the competitors. The entire museum staff and other volunteers helped make the event run smoothly. Earlier filming involved more detailed information on the history of South Dakota, the artifacts and the Cultural Heritage Center.

This fall C-SPAN featured Pierre on two of their channels emphasizing the history and literary life of the community. Nancy Tystad Koupal, director of our Research and Publishing Office, spoke about the South Dakota Historical Society Press and the Pioneer Girl



From the SDSHS Director

Jay D. Vogt

project, and I talked about the Verendrye Plate and French exploration and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It was great fun and an excellent opportunity to focus on the work of the South Dakota State Historical Society and the history of our great state. These were more news features. The turnaround on the filming and broadcast was fast. They have already been broadcast but can now be seen on the internet or maybe in re-runs. To view any of the segments, go to www.c-span.org/citiestour and select “Pierre” under “Featured Cities.”

It is always fun to get to talk about South Dakota history and the work of the State

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Field Reports

Some enthralled. Some appalled. All obsessed. This November, Gold Camp Players Community Theatre volunteer actors and actresses present the story of Elvis Presley told by 17 women in the comical play *All The King's Women*, performed at the Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead.

This touching, bring-the-family comedy directed by Dave Scherer captures the lasting effect that fame and generosity can have on others. From Tupelo, Mississippi (where 11-year-old Elvis wanted a BB gun instead of a guitar) to *The Steve Allen Show*; from President Richard Nixon's office to Andy Warhol's studio; from Cadillac salesmen to Graceland guards, transitions between scenes are anchored by recorded radio addresses that reinforce the appropriate historical flavor accompanying the life, times, and legacy of Elvis Presley beyond just his music.

Production dates for *All The King's Women* by Luigi Jannuzzi are Nov. 10-12 and 17-19 with Friday and Saturday nights at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm.

Admission is \$15 for adults age 18+, \$10 for HHOH members, \$5 students 17 and younger. This play is produced in cooperation with Samuel French, Inc., New York, NY and sponsored by KEVN Black Hills Fox TV.

For more information, contact HHOH Executive Director Sarah Carlson at 605-584-2067 or homestakeoperahouse@gmail.com.

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More Field Reports

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The annual Fall Meeting of the Codington County Historical Society was held Nov. 2 at the museum in Watertown. Former Peace Corps volunteers Vic Godfrey, Waneen Polly and Alexandra Vinella described their experiences with that organization.

Current members of the CCHS board of directors include: President — Roger Whittle, Vice President — Nancy Oviatt, Secretary — Denise Ottenbacher, Treasurer — Kris Fey, and directors Shelly Alvine, John Dagel, Jon Iverson, Harlan Konrad, Dana Lindner, Joy Nelson, Tim Oviatt, Steve Olson and Sue Pearson.

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The Dalesburg Scandinavian

Vogt

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Historical Society. I know you share this passion, and I appreciate all the work you do at your historic site. Together we collect, preserve, interpret, and promote state and local history. Whenever I speak, in addition to asking the members of the audience to join the State Historical Society, I tell them that history is the account of things said and done in the past—all of us have a history, an account of where we come from and how we got to be who we are. We are history.

Our work is important. Every once in a while, we get an opportunity for a wider audience, so we need to take advantage when we have the chance to promote South Dakota history, such as the Fireball Run and C-SPAN programs. However, we all continue to promote our history through books, education kits, exhibitions, public and school programs, tours; the same type of work done throughout the state by an assortment of history-related groups. Keep up the good work, and keep spreading our history. Thank you. jdv

Association in Vermillion has two upcoming events. The association's Annual Meeting & 40th Anniversary Observance is Nov. 10 in Beresford. And the 40th Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition in Dalesburg is Dec. 10 at Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

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The program for the Nov. 16 "History Talk" of the Minnehaha County Historical Society at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls is "Gitchie Girl." Sole survivor Sandra Cheskey and book authors Phil and Sandy Hamman will recount the night of the notorious mass murders at nearby Gitchie Manitou State Park.

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A new railroad history book is now available from the South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City. "Frames of Reference - A South Dakota Railroad Album Featuring Images from the Otto C. Perry Collection" was compiled and edited by Rick Mills, the museum's curator.

The full color book features 55 historic railroad photographs by legendary Colorado photographer Otto C. Perry in South Dakota and the surrounding states dating back to 1922, plus contemporary images of the same locations and locomotives by Mills, other photographers, and selected photo collections.

More state properties on National Register

Six more South Dakota properties were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to the South Dakota State Historical Society.

The listed properties are the Arthur and Ellen Colgan House in Edgemont, the Happy Times Carousel in Faulkton, the First Presbyterian Church in Flandreau, the American Legion Community Hall/Verendrye Museum in Fort Pierre, the McWhorter House in Miller and the Stadum-Green House in Sioux Falls.

The National Register is the official federal list of properties identified as important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. The State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society works in conjunction with the National Park Service, which oversees the National Register program, to list the properties.

In addition to availability at the museum and its Website (www.sdsrm.org), book sale locations and signings by Mills over the next month include:

Nov. 18-19 - Trains at Christmas Show, W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls

Nov. 24-25 - South Dakota State Railroad Museum, Hill City

Dec. 3 - Piedmont Valley Library, Piedmont

Dec. 9 - South Dakota State Railroad Museum, Hill City (also featuring author Linda Hasselstrom)

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Grab some popcorn and a drink as a new exhibit at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls, "Theaters: Stage to Screen," opens with a 5-7 p.m. reception on Nov. 9.

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Quixote Press of Wever, Iowa (just across the border from Union County, SD, on the Big Sioux River) offers 50 percent discounts for books about South Dakota for resale in museum gift shops. Local groups and museums interested in expanding their gift shop inventory can contact Quixote Press at 3544 Blakslee St., Wever, IA 52658; phone 800-571-2665; Website heartsntummies.com

Buildings, sites, structures and objects at least 50 years old possessing historical significance may qualify for the National Register. Properties must also maintain their historic location, design, materials and association. Listing on the National Register does not place any limitations on private property owners by the federal government.

For more information on the National Register or other historic preservation programs, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone 605-773-3458 or website history.sd.gov/Preservation (click on National Register of Historic Places in the right column).